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Memorandum

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DATE:

August 5, 2010

TO:

Docket Control

Arizona Corporation Commission

1200 W. Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007

FROM:

April Robitaille, Assistant to Bradley J. Herrema

RE:

In the Matter of the Application of Arizona-American Water Company

Docket Nos. W-01303A-09-0343 and SW-01303A-09-0343

Enclosed is an original and 14 copies of our Reply Brief of Anthem Gold and Country Club. Please conform one of the copies, and return it to us in the envelope provided. Thank you for your consideration.

Enclosures

SB 545847 v1:098000.0015

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

AUG 6 2010

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SB 551594 v8:098000.0015

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP 21 East Carrillo Street Sauta Barbara. CA 93101

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The Anthem Golf and Country Club ("Club") hereby files its reply brief in the abovecaptioned matter.

INTRODUCTION I.

The Club's primary concern in these proceedings is the rate the Arizona American Water Company ("AAWC" or "Company") charges it for the delivery of water for the irrigation of its golf courses. The Club is located within both AAWC's Anthem Water District ("Water District") and Anthem/Agua Fria Wastewater District ("Wastewater District"). The Club irrigates its 36-hole championship golf course with non-potable water – consisting almost exclusively of treated wastewater effluent generated by the Wastewater District.

The Club's concerns in this case were based on the Company's proposed increase in the Water District's Non-Potable Irrigation Rate, which, when coupled with the rate increase approved in the Commission's June 2008 Decision 70372, would have represented more than a 300% increase in the last two years. The Club is encouraged that the Company has heard its concerns regarding the proposed increase and the impacts that it would have on the Club, and that the Company now requests a more modest increase in the Water District's Non-Potable Irrigation Rate.2

The Club files this reply brief to express its concurrence with the positions of the two other golf courses who have intervened in these proceedings, DMB White Tanks, LLC ("DMB") and Mashie, LLC dba Corte Bella Golf Club ("Corte Bella"), that an Effluent rate should be established in the Anthem Agua Fria Wastewater District for the provision of treated wastewater effluent to the courses.³ If the Commission determines not to set such an Effluent rate, in no case should the Commission adopt the unsupported rates included in the schedules proposed by Staff and the Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO). If the Water District's Non-Potable Irrigation rate is to be amended, it should be set no higher than the rate proposed by the Company in its final schedules.

THE COMMISSION SHOULD SET A REASONABLE RATE FOR THE II. WASTEWATER EFFLUENT THE COMPANY PROVIDES

The Club presently receives water for irrigation purposes from the Company pursuant to the

See Corte Bella's Opening Brief, July 16, 2010; DMB White Tank, LLC's Closing Brief, July 16, 2010.

Ex. AGCC-1. 5:5-6.

Company's June 25, 2010 Anthem Water District Schedule H-3, Rvsd; Post-Hearing Brief of Arizona-American Water Company, July 16, 2010, pp 42-43.

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Water District's Non-Potable Irrigation Rate. The Club is the Water District's largest Non-Potable Irrigation water customer⁴ and its only wastewater effluent user.⁵ The Water District's current Non-Potable Irrigation rate is \$1.43/kgal, set in 2008, through Commission Decision 70372. In the present rate case, the Company initially requested a 104.22% increase among all rates in the Water District. In response to Staff's rebuttal testimony regarding the Company's revenue requirement, the Company agreed to reduce its requested rate increase for the Water District to a rate of \$2.5648/kgal, which would constitute roughly a 79% increase from the present rate. Combined with the increase approved in the Commission's adoption of Decision 70372 in June 2008, this would have represented a more than 300% increase in just over two years.

The Club, in this rate case, and in Docket WS-01303A-06-0403, submitted testimony and comments, respectively, on whether the Company's proposed increases to the Water District's Non-Potable Irrigation Rate were supported by the Company's evidence.⁷ The Company proposed a reduction in the increase sought for the Non-Potable Irrigation Rate. During the Phase 2 Hearing. the Company's witness, Mr. Broderick, testified that the Company would accept the establishment of a reasonable separate rate for the sale of effluent produced by the Wastewater District as a Wastewater District rate.⁸ Witnesses for both Commission Staff and the Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") also agreed that the establishment of a specific Wastewater District Effluent Rate would be appropriate in this case. However, the Company's Final Rate Design Schedules. 10 filed on June 25, 2010, includes only a Non-Potable Irrigation tariff for the Water District, set at \$1.63/kgal, and no Wastewater District Effluent tariff. 11

As described in the briefs of DMB and Corte Bella, a reasonable Effluent rate should be established in the Wastewater District. The reasoning for the same has been well articulated in those briefs and the Club supports the Commission setting such an Effluent rate at the rate requested by DMB and Corte Bella. Based on the testimony presented at the hearing, it was thought that the Company, RUCO and Staff were agreeable to the setting of an Effluent rate.

Ex. AGCC-1, at 4:19-23.

Post-Hearing Brief of Arizona-American Water Company, at 42:22. Company's Initial Schedule H-3, Page 1.)

²⁴

Ex. AGCC-2, at 4-6; attachments to AGCC-2.

Tr., Phase II, at 185, 187.

Tr., Phase II, at 734 (testimony of RUCO witness Mr. Moore), 1292 (testimony of Staff witness Mr. Michlik).

As discussed in section II., neither of the final rate schedules filed by RUCO or Staff included an effluent rate in the Wastewater District, but both maintained a Water District Non-Potable Irrigation

Company's June 25, 2010 Notice of Filing Final Rate Design Schedules.

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However, if the Commission determines not to set such an Effluent rate, but to amend the present Water District Non-Potable Irrigation Tariff, in no case should the Commission adopt the unsupported rates included in the schedules proposed by Staff and RUCO. As the Company correctly points out, neither RUCO nor Staff have addressed the issue of an effluent or non-potable irrigation rate in this proceeding. ¹² And, while both included Non-Potable Irrigation rates in their final rate schedules, neither provides support for those rates or discussed the same in their briefing. If the Non-Potable Irrigation rate is to be amended, it should be set no higher than the rate proposed by the Company in its final schedules.

III. **CONCLUSION**

The Club acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the Company and the other parties to address the issues described herein. The Club respectfully requests that the Commission adopt its recommendations in these proceedings.

DATED: August 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Bradley J. Herrema

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

¹² Post-Hearing Brief of Arizona-American Water Company, at 43:3-4.

PROOF OF SERVICE

		TROOF OF SERVICE		
	2 3 4	ORIGINAL and thirteen (13) copies of the of the foregoing filed this 5th day of August 2010 with:		
	5 6	Docket Control ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007		
	7 8 9	Copy of the foregoing served, by United States Mail, this 5th day of August 2010, to:		
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